

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

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R 161252Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3447

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0858

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN US

SUBJECT: INDO-US RELATIONS: PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS

1. DEPUTY FONMIN B.P. DAS TOLD RAJYA SABHA JAN. 16
(IN WRITTEN REPLY TO QUESTION) THAT DEPUTY ASST.
SECRETARY DUBS HAD EXPRESSED USG REGRET OVER PM'S
CHANDIGARH REMARKS TO INDIAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON.
DAS SAID THAT THE PM'S STATEMENT ON FOREIGN FORCES
HAD NOT SINGLED OUT ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY BUT WERE
DESIGNED TO ALERT "OUR OWN PEOPLE TO THE DANGERS OF
EXTERNAL INTERVENTION AND SUBVERSION."

2. FONMIN CHAVAN TOLD THE LOK SABHA THE SAME DAY,
REPLYING TO ORAL QUESTIONS, THAT WESTERN PUBLICISTS
HAD TRIED TO WEAKEN AND DENIGRATE INDIA AND ITS
INSTITUTIONS THROUGH SLANDER AND MISREPRESENTATION
SINCE THE EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED. THE INTENSITY OF
SUCH PROPAGANDA, HOWEVER, WAS LESS NOW SINCE IT HAD
LOST MUCH OF ITS CREDIBILITY. CHAVAN ASSURED THE HOUSE
THAT THE GOI WAS TAKING ACTIONS TO COUNTER SUCH
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PROPAGANDA BUT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY SENSE OF

COMPLACENCY AS CONTINUED EFFORTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO PROJECT A CORRECT IMAGE OF INDIA. CHAVAN PRAISED AMBASSADOR KAUL'S EFFORTS IN THE US, OBSERVING THAT HE COULD BE A "MODEL" FOR ANY ATTEMPT TO PROJECT INDIA ABROAD. CHAVAN WELCOMED PARLIAMENTARY VISITS FROM ABROAD WHICH HAD HELPED IN GAINING APPRECIATION FOR WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN INDIA. CHAVAN SAID THE GOI HAD TAKEN ACTION AGAINST SOME FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IN INDIA WHO HAD CORRECTLY REPORTED WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN INDIA. ASKED WHETHER THE GOVT WAS TAKING STEPS TO SEND UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS OUT OF INDIA IN VIEW OF DISCLOSURES IN THE WESTERN PRESS ABOUT SOME US AND BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS WHO WORKED FOR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, CHAVAN REPLIED "I WOULD LIKE TO SAY YES."

3. BACK IN THE RAJYA SABHA AGAIN, DEPUTY FONMIN DAS STATED (IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION) THAT CERTAIN EXTERNAL FORCES HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO PROMOTE DISCORD AND INSTABILITY IN THE SUBCONTINENT. PERSISTENT FALSE AND MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA BY INTERESTED QUARTERS WAS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO CREATE MISUNDERSTANDING AND TENSION BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH, HE STATED.SAXBE

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